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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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## UNITED STATES.

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REPORTS TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

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### PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

Surgeon Blue reports:

#### INFECTED GROUND SQUIRRELS.

The finding of 3 plague-infected ground squirrels in California was reported during the week ended August 27, 1910. They were found as follows: One in Alameda County, Cal., August 16, at Craigmont, half a mile north of Berkeley, and 2 in San Joaquin County, Cal., August 19, at McLaughlin ranch, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast of Tracy.

#### ANIMALS EXAMINED FOR PLAGUE INFECTION.

During the week ended August 27, 1910, there were examined for plague infection at the federal laboratory at San Francisco and the branch laboratories at Oakland and Los Angeles, Cal., animals as follows: Squirrels 2,705, gophers 4, rabbits 9, badgers 1, rats 1,864. The rats were identified as follows: *Mus norvegicus* 1,649, *Mus rattus* 88, *Mus alexandrinus* 82, *Mus musculus* 45.

The total number of animals examined was 4,583. Three plague-infected squirrels were found.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF POISON.

In connection with the making of a squirrel-free zone around the cities on San Francisco Bay, 1,775 acres of land in Alameda County were covered with poison during the week ended August 27, 1910.

#### SEATTLE, WASH.

Assistant Surgeon Chapin reports:

During the week ended August 27, 1910, 1,011 rats were collected. Of these 860 were necropsied and examined for plague infection. No plague-infected rats were found.

## Record of Plague Infection.

Place.	Date of last case of human plague.	Date of last case of rodent plague.	Total number of rodents found infected since May, 1907.
<b>California:</b>			
Cities—			
San Francisco .....	Jan. 30, 1908	Oct. 23, 1908	398 rats.
Oakland .....	Oct. 28, 1909	Dec. 1, 1908	126 rats.
Berkeley .....	Aug. 28, 1907	None recorded.	
Los Angeles .....	Aug. 11, 1908	Aug. 21, 1908	1 squirrel.
Counties—			
Alameda (exclusive of the city of Oakland) ..	Sept. 26, 1909	Aug. 16, 1910	83 squirrels, 1 wood rat.
Contra Costa .....	July 21, 1908	Aug. 15, 1910	244 squirrels.
Merced .....	None recorded.	June 6, 1910	2 squirrels.
Monterey .....	..do .....	..do .....	4 squirrels.
San Benito .....	June 5, 1910	July 11, 1910	20 squirrels.
San Joaquin .....	None recorded.	Aug. 19, 1910	7 squirrels.
San Luis Obispo .....	..do .....	Jan. 23, 1910	1 squirrel.
Santa Clara .....	Sept. 5, 1910	June 22, 1910	22 squirrels.
Santa Cruz .....	None recorded.	May 17, 1910	3 squirrels.
Stanislaus .....	..do .....	May 21, 1910	5 squirrels.
<b>Washington:</b>			
Seattle .....	Oct. 30, 1907	Feb. 8, 1910	22 rats.

## Rats Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Place.	Week ended—	Found dead.	Total collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
<b>California:</b>					
San Francisco .....	Aug. 27	85	a 1,782	7,437	0
Oakland .....	..do .....	28	b 721	721	0
Berkeley .....	..do .....	0	c 124	80	0
<b>Washington:</b>					
Seattle .....	..do .....	0	1,011	860	0

a Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 1,347, *Mus rattus* 88, *Mus musculus* 266, *Mus alexandrinus* 81.

b Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 566, *Mus alexandrinus* 1, *Mus musculus* 154.

c Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 80, *Mus musculus* 24.

## Squirrels Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Place.	Week ended—	Trapped and shot.	Found dead.	Examined.	Found infected.
<b>California:</b>					
Cities—					
San Francisco .....	Aug. 27	17	0	16	0
Counties—					
Alameda .....	..do .....	85	10	95	1
Fresno .....	..do .....	301	0	298	0
Los Angeles .....	..do .....	459	0	454	0
Merced .....	..do .....	44	0	44	0
Monterey .....	..do .....	621	0	609	0
Orange .....	..do .....	124	0	124	0
Riverside .....	..do .....	36	12	48	0
San Benito .....	..do .....	110	0	110	0
San Joaquin .....	..do .....	398	0	398	2
San Luis Obispo .....	..do .....	372	0	367	0
Solano .....	..do .....	142	0	142	0

## Other Animals Collected and Examined.

Place.	Week ended—	Animals collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
<b>California:</b>				
Cities—				
San Francisco .....	Aug. 27	11 gophers....	4	0
Counties—				
Merced .....	..do .....	1 badger .....	1	0
San Benito .....	..do .....	6 rabbits .....	6	0
San Luis Obispo .....	..do .....	3 rabbits .....	3	0